

CANBERRA.

SCENES OF ACTIVITY.

30,000 Visitors Expected.

CANBERRA, Monday.

Despite reports to the contrary it is confidently expected that 30,000 people will visit Canberra for the opening of Parliament.

For the accommodation of nearly 3000 men, drawn from all the States, and representing the three arms of Australian defence forces—the navy, militia, and air force—white acres of tents have sprung up mushroom-like in three sections of the Federal territory. On sloping ground close to the area set aside for the review on the afternoon of May 9 is the military camp, and within a few hundred yards opposite the future residence of the Prime Minister the first parties of navy representatives are quartered. Further afield on the Yass-Queanbeyan road are air-men, who are busy preparing for their spectacular display on Monday next.

All the camps are scenes of intense activity. A business-like atmosphere is created by the marching in of companies from all the States, and the rush of engineers and garrison artillerymen to complete preparations for the accommodation of hundreds of troops, who are to arrive as a rearguard to-morrow. According to programme all the men, numbering three thousand, will be under canvas to-morrow night. On the following day the serious business of preparing for the actual ceremony and review will be commenced.

Considerable public attention has been paid to the air force camp, which is located at the new aerodrome, near Duntroon Military College. The blue uniformed men have done a large amount of work, for apart from the ordinary preparations for encampment two hangars have been erected. Over half the total number of aviators assigned for Canberra are already under canvas, and the remainder are due to-morrow. The personnel of the camp was strengthened considerably by the arrival of 168 representatives of the Citizen Air Force and permanent force. This contingent made the journey by road from Sydney under Squadron Leader F. W. Lucas, bringing supplies and camp impediments.

Twenty-one planes will be in camp to-morrow. A composite squadron of 89 men under Squadron Leader H. Lobby is also due to-morrow, and a further detachment of the Third Squadron at Richmond is expected. By nightfall there will be about 420 officers and men under canvas. Aerial drill will be undertaken on Wednesday, and formation flying will take place during the full-dress rehearsal for the ceremony.

Squadron Leader Hepburn stated that civilian pilots had intimated their intention of visiting Canberra for the opening ceremony. It was hoped that pilots would not land in such a way as to interfere with formations which would be taking off to take part in the ceremony.

The review ground situated slightly on the Queanbeyan side of Parliament House has been prepared for Monday afternoon's ceremony at

Queanbeyan side of Parliament House has been prepared for Monday afternoon's ceremony at which the Duke of York will take the salute during the march past of 3000 men. On Wednesday all troops, sailors, and aviators will enter the field to commence training for the spectacular function. A full dress rehearsal will be held on Saturday afternoon, when the guard of honour and aviators will perform their movements.

Between 400 and 500 applications for camping spaces have been received by the Royal visit section of the Federal Capital, but while this cannot mean more than a few thousand people, it cannot be taken as a basis of the estimate of the attendance. The removal of some of the traffic restrictions has resulted in a changed attitude of many residents of surrounding towns, and it is almost certain that a large number of applications for camping space will be lodged during the next few days. Over 5000 guests of the Commonwealth and States will be present, and the railway authorities anticipate heavy traffic of tourists, which will make a one-day trip. About 10,000 people may be expected from the Monaro district, bringing the total well over 20,000. In addition 700 camping spaces have been reserved in Queanbeyan Park, and hotel accommodation in that municipality will be fully taxed.

While this should mean a crowd of about 27,000 or 28,000, no estimate can be formed of the number of people who will be accommodated by residents of the Federal Capital. At the Causeway, one of the temporary settlements, lessees of cottages have completed arrangements with tourists to let rooms for £3 per night. High rents are being asked in other districts, but householders state that there is no dearth of applicants for rooms. Following the clearing of the hotels preparations for the arrival of the Commonwealth guests are now being made. The Hotel Canberra is empty with the exception of Sir Littleton and Lady Groom, but the Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) and the Minister for Home and Territories (Mr. Marr) are expected here on Thursday. Other Ministers will arrive towards the end of the week, and the Governor-General, with members of the Duke's staff, will arrive at Yarralumla House ahead of the Royal visitors. Mr. Bruce will take up residence at his Canberra home at the end of the week. Throughout the city there is an atmosphere of pent-up excitement, accompanied by a last-minute rush to complete arrangements for the historic ceremony.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES.

The opening festivities will be accompanied by Church festivals, in which Anglicans and Roman Catholics will take part. A recent announcement by the Church of England authorities that an open-air service, during which the Cathedral site on Rottenbury Hill would be dedicated, would be held on Sunday next has been followed by an intimation from the Roman Catholic authorities that on the same date the Apostolic Delegate for Australia (Dr. Cattaneo) will visit the Federal capital. Arrangements are now in hand for a Roman Catholic rally and the celebration of High Mass at Manuka, where two marquees with accommodation for 2000 people have been erected. On Monday next Dr. Cattaneo will bless the city from the Catholic Cathedral site. Officers of both Churches consider that the rallies will attract thousands of tourists to Canberra.

BOY SCOUTS AS GUIDES.

Scouts from all the States are due at the Federal capital during the week. The lads, who will represent the Australian Boy Scout movement, will be allotted specific duties on their arrival. On the opening day, and while the visitors are here, they will act as runners

their arrival. On the opening day, and while the visitors are here, they will act as runners from aid posts. Special Scouts have been selected from Canberra and Queensland troops. Some of these will be stationed at hotels to act as guides to official visitors.